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Message Text

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62
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 PC-04 CU-04

RSR-01 /130 W
---------- 091729
P R 2146 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4436
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2336

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, ELAB
SUBJ: SHOOTINGS, STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND A SILENT RADIO STATION

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: SANTIAGO 2315 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. POLITICAL FIRES REKINDLED WITH SHOOTING INCIDENT IN RANCAGUA IN WHICH MILITARY PATROL KILLED ONE STRIKING MINER AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED ANOTHER. GOVT SUBSEQUENTLY CLOSED RIGHTWING RADIO AGRICULTURA FOR SIX DAYS FOR IT " FALSE" BRAODCASTS ON INCIDENT, PROVOKING OPPOSITION STREET DEMONSTRATORS IN SANTIAGO. DOCTORS IN SANTIAGO BEGAN TWO- DAY STRIKE, AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES ARE CONSIDERING FILING IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST TWO MORE CABINET MINISTERS AND ANOTHER INTENDENTE, ADDING TO THE THREE CASES PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED
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BY CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. NO PROGRESS REPORTED IN RESOLVING EL TENIENTE MINERS STRIKE, BUT CHUQUICAMATA UNION HAS STILL NOT DECIDED ON POSSIBLE SYMPATHY STRIKE. END SUMMARY.

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2. SHOOTING INCIDENT IN RANCAGUA AFTERNOON MAY 30 LEFT ONE EL TENIENTE STRIKER DEAD AND AN OTHER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. MILITARY PATROL WHICH WAS ESCORTING BUSES TRANSPORTING NON- STRIKING MINERS TO TENIENTE FIRED ON VEHICLE INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC INCIDENT WITH CONVOY. SUBSEQUENT STREET DEMONSTRATIONS DISPERSED BY POLICE USING TEAR GAS AND WATER CANNONS. STRIKING MINERS STAGED APPARENTLY PEACEFUL " MARCH OF SILENCE" IN LATE EVENING TO PROTEST SHOOTING.

3. MEDIATING COMMISSION IN TENIENTE STRIKE BEGAN ITS WORK MAY 30, BUT NO PROGRESS YET REPORTED. GOVT- APPOINTED MINE INTERVENTORS, MEANWHILE, ANNOUNCED THAT, AS A STARTER, 200 NEW WORKERS HAD BEEN HIRED AND 118 NON- STRIKERS PROMOTED TO REPLACE STRIKERS. MINLABOR FIGUEROA (COMMUNIST) AND VARIOUS UP- CONTROLLED LABOR ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE TO DENOUNCE TENIENTE STRIKE AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND TO URGE STRIKERS TO GO BACK TO WORK. CHUQUICAMATA WORKERS STILL HAVE NOT VOTED ON POSSIBLE SYMPATHY STRIKE.

4. EVENING MAY 30 SECGEN OF PRESIDENCY ANIBAL PALMA (RADICAL) ISSUED ORDER CLOSING RIGHT- WING RADIO AGRICULTURA FOR SIX DAYS FOR BROADCASTING " FALSE AND MISLEADING" REPORTS OF TWO DEATHS IN RANCAGUA SHOOTING. THIS IS AT LEAST FOURTH TIME IN ALLENDE ADMINISTRATION THAT GOVT HAS ORDERED AGRICULTURA TEMPORARILY CLOSED. BEVY OF PN PARLIAMENTARIANS PROMPTLY TERMED ORDER AN ILLEGAL INFRINGEMENT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ANNOUNCED PARTY WILL BRING IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST PALMA. DEMONSTRATORS BACKING STATION , ENCOURAGED BY CONTINUED BROADCASTS BY RADIO AGRICULTURA ON ITS AND OTHER OPPOSITION STATIONS ' WAVELENGTHS, STAGED NOISY RALLY IN FRONT OF STUDIOS IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO, THEN SET STREET BLOCKADES AND BONFIRES IN PROVIDENCIA RESIDENTIAL AREA.

5. DOCTORS IN SANTIAGO PROVINCE BEGAN 48- HOUR STRIKE MAY 30 IN PROTEST AGAINST FISTFIGHT BETWEEN OPPOSITION AND UP PARTISANS AT SANTIAGO HOSPITAL PREVIOUS DAY. STRIKE APPARENTLY APPLIES ONLY TO GOVT- RUN HOSPITALS. UP- CONTROLLED HEALTH WORKERS
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UNION (FENATS) ISSUED STATEMENT DENOUNCING STRIKE AND PROMISED TO MAINTAIN SERVICE.

6. ONE THE IMPEACHMENT FRONT, IN ADDITION TO POSSIBLE CHARGES AGAINST PALMA (ABOVE), PN ALSO ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO IMPEACH O' HIGGINS PROVINCE INTENDENT LUIS BAEZA (COMMUNIST) FOR AUTHORIZING MAY 29 POLICE SEARCH OF PN OFFICE IN RANCAGUA (REFTEL). PDC ANNOUNCED IT WAS PREPARING IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST MINECONOMY ORLANDO MILLAS (COMMUNIST) SINCE HE HAD NOT TAKEN STEPS DEMANDED BY PDC TO ASSURE EQUITABLE

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS (SANTIAGO 2183). CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

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COMMITTEES BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST MINISTERS OF LABOR AND MINES AND VALPARAISO INTENDENTE. WORKERS MARCH IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO MAY 30 IN SUPPORT OF MINISTERS WENT WITHOUT INCIDENT; OTHER SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS ARE LIKELY.

7. PRO- GOVT PRESS CLAIMED RETIRED COLONEL AND UNSUCCESSFUL PN SENATE CANDIDATE ALBERTO LABBE HEADED TERRORIST GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBING GOVT- OWNED CHANNEL 7 TV TOWER (SANTIAGO 2296). LABBE FILED LIBEL CHARGES AGINST SOCIALIST- CONTROLLED ULTIMA HORA.

8. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, OPPOSITION PRESS IS SPOTLIGHTING BREAD SHORATE IN SANTIAGO. OPPOSITION STUDENTS AT CATHOLIC UNIV. IN VALPARAISO CONTINUED STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AND ANNOUNCED A " CRUSADE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION." GARRETON FACTION OF MAPU ISSUED HARD- LINE STATEMENT DENOUNCING OPPOSITION' S " SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES, AND UP WOMEN' S ORGANIZATIONS ANNOUNCED A " MARCH AGAINST CIVIL WAR" IN SANTIAGO JUNE 7. COMMUNIST DEPUTY MIREYA BALTRA AND SOCIALIST UNDERSECY TRANSPORTATION HERNAN MORALES TRADED INSULTS IN A BITTER PUBLIC EXCHANGE. LOCAL UNITS OF PS, MIR, AND MAPU ISSUED STATEMENT DENOUNCING " REPRESSION" EXERCISED AGAINST THEIR MEMBERS BY COMMUNISTS. OPPOSITION PRESS PUBLICIZED PUBLIC LETTER FROM RETIRED GENERALS AND ADMIRALS TO PRESIDENT ALLENDE DENOUNCING " CLIMATE OF TENSION" AS DETRIMENTAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND CALLING ON HIM TO TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION. SUPREME COURT ALSO ISSUED PUBLIC LETTER TO ALLENDE LAMENTING FAILURE OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS TO COMPLY WITH JUDICIAL

ORDERS, STATING THIS FAILURE SIGNIFIES NOW A CRISIS IN THE RULE OF LAW(ESTADO DE DERECHO) AS REPRESENTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGE FROM COURT TO PRESIDENT, BUT PEREMPTORY OR IMMINENT BANK- RUPTCY OF COUNTRY' S LEGAL INSTITUTIONALITY (JURICIDAD).

9. COMMENT. ABOVE EVENTS AND " THREE AREAS" CONTROVERSY (SEPTEL) HAVE REAGITATED POLITICAL SCENE JUST WHEN SITUATION APPEARED TO BE CALMING (REFTEL).
DAVIS

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